Bhutan-

Sl. No.	Proposed rail links From	Distance To	Estimated cost (in Km)	(in Rs. cr.)
1	Hasimara (West Bengal)	Phuentsholing	18	271
2	Rangia (Assam)	Samdrupjongkhar *Via* Darranga	48	583
3	Kokrajhar (Assam)	Gelephu	58	304
4	Banarhat (West Bengal)	Samtse	23	206
5	Pathshala (Assam)	Nanglam	51	751

Further, Detailed Engineering Survey has been undertaken by M/s RITES for Jogbani-Biratnagat and Jayanagar-Bardib as new railway lines in Nepal & for Hasimara-Phuentsholing new railway line in Bhutan.

Bridge over river Chenab

264. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of construction of a bridge over river Chenab for linking the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India, has been cleared and the abandoned project, the old alignment involving a cost of 1000 crores for the mega-arch bridge, and girder bridge estimated to cost one-tenth *i.e.* Rs. 100 crores has not been accepted; and

(b) if so, whether the apprehended safety reservations expressed by a foreign expert Member of the Committee has been glossed over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) An Expert Committee was appointed to deliberate on the issue of the stability of the slopes of Chenab bridge. In view of the importance of the structure the said Committee recommended certain field investigations and studies before recommencement of work on the bridge. The required tests have been carried out and the reports are under consideration. There has been no proposal for constructing a girder bridge costing Rs. 100 crore in lieu of mega arch bridge.

(b) Two foreign experts had given their opinion, one of them considered the existing site acceptable while the other suggested further studies for remedial measures to reduce any risk. Accordingly, studies have been conducted.

Proposal for Joginder Nagar - Pathankot - Leh rail line

†265. SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi